

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th May 1904.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1904.

Tibet.

The Tibetans are not cowards. They are a brave, laborious, and easily-contented people who are unwilling to enter into others' lands. The keynote of their conduct lies in the motto, "The highest religion is not to kill." No impartial judge can say that the English have any moral or religious right to enter into their country on the pretext of civilising them, making geographical discoveries or spreading commerce. But if brute force is to be given preference in such cases, then justice, religion, and morality will become only so many names for dacoity. The Western nations consider this brute force to be the best means of promoting their interests. The whole world can testify to this. The Western nations wax eloquent over what they consider to be the defects in the administration of other countries. But they are blind to their own faults. They do not shrink from committing oppressions on others, publishing falsehoods in reports, and showing undue partiality towards their own countrymen. But they are always eager to point to the misrule of Thebaw and to discuss the question whether the Sultan is oppressive or not.

We are fully conscious of the blessings we have obtained from the English. But we do not admit that the Indians were worse off under the Musalmans. How can we say that the Indians were not better off when they had less wants than now, when they used to be appointed to high posts in the State irrespective of creed or caste, when the country's wealth used to remain in the country, when people were not required to procure licenses for daggers, and when there was not so much distress in the land? The Western civilisation has not been able to extort our respect or admiration. The British Government, i.e., the present Ministry, has said that the independence of Tibet will not be interfered with. But who knows that the succeeding Ministries will keep this promise? We know what such promises are worth. We know how the late Queen's Proclamation in India is honoured by the representatives of the Crown in the country. We know the history of the road-cess and the suppression of famine in India. We are therefore anxious and feel greatly concerned for the future of Tibet.

2. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 9th May has the following:—

Persia.

A correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* says that Persia, the laughing-stock of Europe, has made a move by pulling down the British flag-staff from some islands in the Persian Gulf which are under British protection, and that there is little doubt that she will be taken severely to task for this act. There are many papers in England which misguide their nation. Persia, whom the *Bombay Gazette* impertinently calls the laughing-stock of Europe, is the first kingdom to whom England owes many debts of obligation. This insolence will rather lower the English in the estimation of the Persians. It is the treatment which the English Press mete out to Persia which has made England's rivals powerful and their trade prosperous in Persia. Persia's enforcement of the new scale of export and import duties, Lord Curzon's departure from the Persian Gulf without landing at Bushire, and, finally, her interference with England in the matter of the latter's making encroachments upon two islands in the Persian Gulf, are the causes which made the English Press lose their temper and abuse her. But all this goes against the friendship which exists between the two kingdoms.

Persia's dishonest neighbours consider her their friend when they see in her movements some signs of ignorance. But the moment they see that she is adroitly engaged in recovering what she lost, they turn against her and speak disparagingly of her. By this behaviour, however, the English Press, in fact is doing Persia a good turn, for the indolent Persian Government will surely take a warning from its writings. It is natural that, when Persia sets about regaining her lost possessions, her neighbours will find fault with her. The days are gone when the frontiers of Persia were easily encroached upon. England gains much by her trade with Persia. The insolent conduct of the English Press is certain to harm her in this respect.

ROZNAME-I-MUKADDAS
HABUL MATEEN,
May 9th, 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1904.

3. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd May learns that some of the dacoits in the Dowjani dacoity case in the Mymensingh district have been arrested. There are innumerable boats on the Jamuna river in which dacoits are to be found, but the river police force should be increased.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
May 10th, 1904.

4. The *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 10th May says that *lathials* have become very unruly and oppressive within the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. They oppress the weak, insult respectable men, and even attack their women.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 4th, 1904.

5. A correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes that in a certain village in the Polba thana of the Hooghly district there is a naib, the representative of one of the two influential families in that village, who commits severe oppressions upon other people. The latter, however, dare not utter a word against him. The naib and his followers have combined to put a certain person to trouble and are collecting subscriptions for this purpose. The police officers of the Polba thana are certainly aware of these matters, but somehow or other they take no notice of them. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 8th, 1904.

6. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 8th May says that a daughter and female relation of a midwife living in the Tantibazar Goalnagar village in the Dacca district have been missing for some time past. Both are young.

From the beginning of *Faigun* to the middle of *Chaitra* last, three cases of abduction of young women occurred in the Konda and Subhadya villages on the other side of the Burhiganga, south of Dacca town. One of the women is still missing and the case of another is pending.

The Dacca district is going to be turned into a hell by *badmashes*. Cases of outrage on women are fast increasing. Respectable villagers are having a hard time of it with their families. No one's honour is secure. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

JYOTI,
May 5th, 1904.

7. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th May says that one main purpose runs through all the reforms which Government undertakes in these days, and that is, some new privilege or advantage for Englishmen; otherwise how is it that the Police Commission recommends that the competitive examination for Police Superintendships should be held in England? The authorities may do whatever they like, but the fact is that such an arrangement will not reform the Police Department. So many revolutionary changes would not have befallen this country if this anxiety to provide Englishmen with their means of livelihood had not been at the root of all of them. The Commission admits that the European officers in the Police Department are totally worthless, and in the same breath declares that it is the native officers that are corrupt. All the native Police Superintendents and most of the native Inspectors are above corruption. But how many European officers of the same grade are honest? To reform the police, give Superintendships and Assistant Superintendships to qualified natives and increase the pay of the subordinate staff. By this means alone can real reform be carried out. But if, in the name of reform, you try for to provide for your "poor whites," nothing will be done.

BASUMATI,
May 7th, 1904.

8. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes:—
That the police in India are corrupt and inefficient is well known. There was no necessity whatever to appoint a Commission and to spend so much money for the ascertainment of this fact. But is it quite correct to say that "corruption affects the force in greater or less degree from

constable to Inspector"? Are the higher police officers all immaculate? Mr. Monro, of Ranaghat, holds a contrary opinion, and his opinion ought to have some weight. The fact is that the higher police officers are all Europeans and kith and kin of men in power. It would sound harsh to say that these officers are corrupt; and the Commission has therefore found it convenient to charge the *kala admis* with corruption.

To remedy the evil, the Commission recommends that competent Inspectors should, from time to time, be promoted to Assistant Police Superintendships, and that recruitment for higher posts in the Police Department should be made by holding a competitive examination in England. We are quite opposed to this latter proposal. Few Indians will be able to appear at this examination, and the higher posts in the police service will consequently be the monopoly of Englishmen. It is quite evident that the training that these Englishmen will receive in England will be very meagre, and seeing that an experienced civilian like Mr. Roe summoned "chira din" to court, thereby shewing his astounding ignorance of the Bengali language, it is quite plain how miserably they will fail in their work, which requires an intimate knowledge of the people and their language. Instead of making this proposal for providing Englishmen with their means of livelihood, the Commission ought to have recommended that Deputy Magistrates, having wide experience of criminal work, should be made Police Superintendents. Deputy Magistrates are all able officers and possess the best possible knowledge of the province. By promoting them to Police Superintendships, Government might effect the real reform of the police service.

9. If the report of the Police Commission promises nothing better, says the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May, than what is contained in the summary of it published in the *Times* newspaper, then it must be said that

The report of the Police Commission.

all the labours of that expensive Commission have been thrown away. There is nothing new, nothing that holds out any hope or consolation to the Indians, to be found in the summary that has been published of the Commission's report.

Who does not know that the Indian police are everywhere oppressive and utterly depraved? That the Police Department has become as loathsome as hell owing to the preponderance in it of uneducated and irresponsible officers, that Police Superintendents are in most cases devoid of any learning or knowledge, and that they secure their appointments by virtue of their colour and through recommendations, are known to everybody. The Congress has all along maintained that competitive examinations should be held for Police Superintendships. All these facts are well-known, and Government might easily gather them from the Provincial Governors and the Indian National Congress. It is therefore inexplicable why such an expensive Commission was appointed for this purpose. Although there was very little hope of the real malady being cured, yet thousands of rupees which the poor, famished Indians could ill-afford, were spent on the pretext of getting it cured. Such anomalies are possible only in India.

Lord Curzon has great faith in Commissions. But we fail to perceive their utility. What benefit have we derived from the numberless Commissions so far appointed in this country and from their recommendations? Have the recommendations of the Public Service Commission, the Education Commission of 1880, the Irrigation Commission, the Army Commission, and the Famine Commission been acted upon? Supposing that the Police Commission has suggested the much-needed reforms, who knows that the Government will be willing to adopt them? Money is necessary to carry out these reforms, but considering that in spite of the gradually increasing income of Government its wants are daily multiplying, it is difficult to conceive how the reforms can be carried out. If the authorities are unable to find the necessary funds for carrying out reforms, why is there so much waste of the people's money? Is there any secret purpose underlying this Police Commission? Inscrutable are the ways of our Christian rulers, and they excel even Machiavelli in their political cunning. How can we persuade ourselves that the Police Commission was appointed to do good to the Indians by simply collecting facts which were already too well known?

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 7th, 1904.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1904.

10. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May observes:—

The report of the Police Commission.

What noble object Lord Curzon had in view, past-master as he is of a Machiavelian policy, in appointing the Police Commission, is known only to him. We, however, have failed to derive any satisfaction from a perusal of the Commission's recommendations. The remarks which the Commission has made regarding the oppressiveness and the corruption of the police have not emanated from the purest of motives, nor are they true. We have been grieved to find that in its anxiety to whitewash the character of European officers the Commission tries to shift the charge of corruption on to the shoulders of native officers. The Commission has said that all the officers from constable to Inspector are corrupt. Can anybody who knows anything about the workings of the *Indian Police*, admit that this statement represents the whole truth? Can any one have the hardihood to deny that officers above the rank of Inspectors are also corrupt? Are all District Superintendents immaculate? They may not accept bribe from accused persons direct, but it is well known that most of them receive large sums of money through their subordinates. That the Commission has laid itself open to the charge of unfairness by imputing corruption exclusively to native officers is undeniable. The Commission has the candour to admit that the "failures of influential Anglo-Indian families" are made Assistant and District Superintendents, that "individual favouritism" plays an important part in their appointment, and that "incalculable injury" is done to the Police Department by the appointment of these ill-educated, incompetent youths. If this is the case, how is it that the Commission makes native officers alone responsible for corruption? Who can believe that among ill-educated incompetent, and irresponsible men, it is only the natives that are guilty and the Europeans are all honest? Does honesty depend upon colour? If Europeans are able to live honestly on the salary they get, why should Inspectors be unable to do the same? Native Inspectors are generally honest men, and the Commission has done a grave wrong to them by classing them with constables. But if their black colour has raised a suspicion against their character, then of course we can have nothing to say in the matter.

RANGALAY,
May 8th, 1904.

11. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 8th May has the following:—

Is police reform possible?

The question that we have to ask ourselves is whether any reform of the police under the English Government is possible and we, for ourselves, must answer this question with an emphatic "no."

There are two reasons why the police cannot be reformed. In the first place, the police is, as it were, an index of the power of the English Government, just as the mass of sand heated by its rays is an index of the power of the sun. The heat of the sand is unbearable; but bearable or unbearable, it is sure to be heated as the sun gains in power. The English Government is now shining in India with the power and splendour of twelve suns and, as an inevitable result, we have the police in this country representing the mass of sand on the Indian soil, heated unbearably by its powerful rays. To cool the sand and make it bearable to the naked feet, we must have either clouds that would obscure the sun, accompanied by drenching showers, or else must scrape the mass of sand off the Indian soil. But the sun is now too powerful to be so obscured and the sand too deeply ingrained to be so removed.

Secondly, too much power in human hands, much more in the hands of a subject people, is sure to be abused. The English Government is seething the Indians in their own milk. It is repressing Indians with the aid of Indians. The police has been created simply to punish the wicked and to aid as an instrument in the assertion and development of British authority. The police is therefore capable only of mischief. It is in human nature that those who have long been slaves shall turn tyrants and oppressors if vested with authority over their brother slaves. Again, a servant must always have an eye to the main chance. The laws afford the police a very large field for the exercise of their powers in almost all conceivable circumstances, and the police can therefore make its presence very oppressively felt. The least forbearance in the exercise of its vast powers is therefore sure to bring to the police a large income in the shape of douceurs. We must therefore pronounce the attempt

to put down corruption in the police as somewhat insane. To cherish the object with which the police has been created, to maintain the system of police administration which has been established to accomplish that object, and at the same time to make an attempt to reform the police and make it moral, must be surely a blind meant to deceive fools.

If we must speak the truth, Lord Curzon's Police Commission is only a blind to deceive fools. We have also misgivings that it may be a mere device for introducing Eurasians into the police in larger numbers. Native policemen are somewhat less oppressive than Eurasian policemen. Only give them bribes and they will not oppress you. But the Eurasian policeman is a monster—a strange cross between man and lion—partaking of the nature of both. He has all the deceit, wiliness, treachery, and hypocrisy of man, together with all the strength, ferocity, and relentless cruelty of the lion. Eurasians, if vested with the boundless powers of the police, must make the country too hot for the people. The few Eurasians who are already in the police service are mostly a pest to high and low alike. Many of them take bribes and yet oppress the bribers.

But even with such unlimited powers the police either cannot or would not protect person and property in the mufassal. Theft, dacoity, and murder are rife in parts of the mufassal. Sentences of imprisonment and hanging and quarterings of punitive police are of no avail to check these crimes. The people are destitute of arms and weakened by malaria, and yet one cannot walk from Calcutta to Belgharia after 10 o'clock at night without imminent risk of being robbed and even killed. Riots and affrays were rife in the Backergunge district and the police was unable to cope with the evil. By a great stroke of ingenuity the Lieutenant-Governor Sir Alexander Mackenzie deprived the people of that district of their fire-arms. But are riots and affrays the less rife in that district? We have much to say on this subject and we mean to return to it.

12. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 9th May has the following in its English columns:—

Police reform.

DACCA GAZETTE.
May 9th, 1904.

It is a sad commentary on the Official Secrets Act, which has been recently passed by the Government of Lord Curzon in the teeth of universal opposition, that the *Times* in a recent issue has published copious extracts from the report of the Police Commission which had been withheld from the Indian public on what grounds nobody exactly knows. We do not know if the republication of those extracts in India would amount to an infringement of the law. We are, however, in good company, seeing that those extracts have been reproduced *verbatim* in the *Englishman* and the other dailies in India. It is difficult to understand, judging from the extracts in question, why the report should be treated as secret, unless it is supposed that it contains other recommendations which it would be inconvenient for the Government to disclose to the public in its present stage. This may or may not be the case. But it only shews that secrecy in such matters engenders suspicion and thus causes more mischief than the publication of the report could have possibly done if it contained recommendations which would not be acceptable from the Government point of view.

The Commission is unanimous that the lower ranks of the police are notoriously inefficient. The constables are corrupt, because they are ill-paid; the Sub-Inspectors are inefficient, because they are generally promoted from the ranks of constables; the upper ranks are inefficient, because they are appointed by nomination without due regard to their qualifications.

A far too costly Commission was certainly not necessary to demonstrate these truths. They are apparent to every Indian. The pity is that the Government would not pin their faith on such testimony. The Commission proposes that the pay of the constable should be increased so as to minimise the chances of corruption. But we are afraid the proposed remedy will not go any way to remove the evil complained of. A constable's income is ordinarily far above what the Government can offer him, and the addition of a rupee or two in his monthly pay will not affect his illegal inclinations in the least. To our thinking, the true remedy lies in securing the efficiency and honesty of the upper ranks. A moral tone must be created for the service. If the District Superintendent knows his work and has not to depend upon the Inspector, he can be hoped to keep the latter under check. Instances are far too many in which the District Superintendents go about enjoying

themselves, leaving the whole work practically to the Inspector, because they are no good without the latter. Under such circumstances it is not inconceivable that an unscrupulous Inspector may take advantage of the inefficiency of his superior officer and manage to be the practical master of the situation. The same remarks apply equally to the Inspectors with respect to their relation to the Sub-Inspectors. It is thus clear that demoralisation practically begins from above and spreads all along the line to the lowest ranks of the police. If the converse were true, a different state of things would in ordinary course be expected. The District Superintendent's abilities and example would keep the Inspector wide awake, and the same spirit would pervade the whole service. If any example were needed, we may refer to the Civil Service which, with all its faults, is a splendid monument of British statesmanship. The character of the average civilian is a guarantee of the character of the subordinate service, and we have always been of opinion that unless and until the upper ranks of the police service have been what they ought to be, no amount of good intentions on the part of the Government will be of any practical good to the country. The Commission has recommended that the upper ranks should be recruited by a competitive examination. How far this recommendation will be acceptable to the Government of Lord Curzon has yet to be seen.

The Commission's recommendations as regards the separation of the Judicial and Executive services are far from satisfactory. There is discernable in the report a recognition of the great evil of this unwholesome combination. But they do not suggest separation of the two—they only recommend that the District Superintendent should be freed from the control of the District Magistrate. We do not know if the remedy is worse than the evil. The Magistrate's control under the existing circumstances is often a check against the arbitrary conduct of the average District Superintendent, and if the two services are not to be separated entirely, the Commission's recommendations in regard to this matter are anything but sound.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

**FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,**
April 27th, 1904.

13. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 27th April says that Rai

The Subdivisional Officer of
Goalundo in the Faridpur district.

Baroda Charan Ganguli, Bahadur, the Subdivisional Officer of Goalundo in the Faridpur district, shows great partiality towards the local Railway Traffic Inspector and Mr. Combe, the Platelayer. They are offered chairs in his Court. He places implicit faith in their depositions. Once he sentenced a Court-peon, named Mahima Chandra, to six months' imprisonment on the evidence of these *sahebs*. The District Judge, however, disbelieved their evidence and quashed the conviction. The Rai Bahadur even holds his Court at Goalundo Ghat if any of the *sahebs* is a party to a case. The Traffic Inspector has a dog which bites and annoys people in the street. This having been brought to the notice of the Rai Bahadur, he ordered the Sub-Inspector of the local police to bring the matter personally to the notice of the *sahab*. The *sahab* could not be found and the *memsahab* was informed of the matter, but to no effect. The Rai Bahadur then wrote a letter to the *sahab*, but it was not replied to. The Sub-Inspector then reported that a notice should be issued in the *sahab's* name. The Rai Bahadur was rather displeased at this, and he has ordered the Sub-Inspector to see the *sahab* anyhow and inform him of the matter.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
May 4th, 1904.

14. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th May says that the hold-

The holding of law Courts in
the morning in Midnapore town.

ing of law Courts in the morning in Midnapore town causes great inconvenience and hardship to amla and parties, because they have to return to their houses in the heat of noon.

HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1904.

15. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that

The Additional Munsif of
Madaripur.

Babu Bijay Kesab Mitra, the Additional Munsif of Madaripur in the Faridpur district, behaves very badly towards pleaders, parties, and witnesses. As soon as a question has been put to and answered by a witness in the dock, the Munsif Babu calls out "next man," "next man." If the examining pleader says that he has more questions to ask, Bijay Babu does not hesitate to insult him. The local pleaders therefore naturally take more care to protect their

honour than to safeguard the interests of their clients in Bijay Babu's Court. In title-suits, the Munsif Babu takes only memos of depositions and cross-examinations. He is always in a temper. Recently during the hearing of a case a venerable pleader of the Court said, "Sir, I have documents to submit." The worthy Munsif roared and said, "Throw all your documents into the river Kumar." He always objects to write out cross-examinations. The sight of a long list of witnesses upsets him; and in cases in which many witnesses are cited, he insults both the parties and the pleaders, and at the very beginning lets the former know what his opinions are in regard to the cases. If the evidence given by a witness does not tally with the opinion held by the Munsif he calls him "liar," etc. The other day a respectable witness was so much upset by his menacing attitude that he sat down in the witness-box. In Kulapaddi Bhattacharya's case Bijay Babu said to a pleader, with fiery eyes and a menacing mien, "I do not understand why junior pleaders without understanding anything conduct the case," because that pleader had had the misfortune of presenting a somewhat long list of witnesses on the side he represented. Immediately afterwards the Munsif called him "unmannerly" and ordered him not to cross-examine. A senior pleader was called and conducted the examination for some time, but he had soon to go to another Court. The insulted junior pleader then asked, "Will the Court permit me to cross-examine the witness?" The Court did not reply, but cried out "next man," "next man." Instantly the next man stepped into the witness-box. The authorities are requested to enquire into these complaints and do the needful.

16. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May says that the new order passed by Mr. Weston, Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, regarding the surety of accused persons, although adversely criticised by the *Bengalee* newspaper, does not appear to be

The new order regarding the surety of accused persons in the Calcutta Police Court.

altogether unjustifiable. It is principally directed against professional touts, whose business it is to pose as men of property and to foment quarrels among unsuspecting persons, thereby doing a good deal of mischief in their unscrupulous attempt to earn a livelihood. From this point of view, therefore, Mr. Weston's recent order deserves grateful recognition. But how far the remedy proposed will give rise to other mischiefs is a subject for serious consideration. As it is sometimes found that persons of no property give fictitious names and offer to stand surety, Mr. Weston has ordered that either the police should enquire and report about the circumstances of any surety, or a pleader must certify to his sufficiency.

In the first place, the effect of the order will be to open up another source of income to police officers, whose character is well known. The accused person, to escape being sent to *hajat*, will be bound to produce a surety and will thus be thrown at the mercy of the police, who will exact the money by *sulm* which the tout used to realize by gentler means. In the second place, it will be difficult for the accused to get a surety, for no one except the most intimate friends or relatives will be willing to stand surety, for to stand security will mean the indignity of a police enquiry. If the police report a really fit person offering to stand security as insufficient, what safeguard is there against such a contingency? Again, no respectable pleader will certify to the sufficiency of a surety. Those pleaders who may be willing to certify will demand large fees. In proposing to remove one evil Mr. Weston's order will thus create many. The order should therefore be substituted by another which will be free from these objections. By ordering that the same person must not be allowed to stand surety every day or very frequently, and that the surety must swear to the statement of his property, and taking care that his identity is not falsely given, all possible objections may be removed. The liability to prosecution for perjury will certainly be an effective check upon unscrupulous touts.

DAILY HITAVADI.
May 9th, 1904.

17. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 10th May says that some *amla* in the Munsifs' Courts at Contai are reported to be making great *sulm* upon the public in attempting to exact illegal gratifications from them. The Munsifs should take notice of the conduct of these officers.

The alleged illegal conduct of the *amla* of the Contai Munsif in the Midnapore district.

NIHAR,
May 10th, 1904.

(d)—Education.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1904.

18. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd May writes:—

Higher education and the prospects of the Indians.

The University Act has dealt a severe blow at higher education in India. Under the new arrangements it is doubtful whether the existing mufussal colleges will continue long. Most of them are now awaiting their doom. By the introduction of "school final" examinations, higher education must lose all its interest and importance. Next comes the Education Resolution which is about to crush primary education. In fact this sudden and unexpected attempt to restrict both higher and primary education has created a new problem regarding the future of the people of India.

In these days of hard struggle for existence, higher education was the only hope of the Indians, who as a people had to their misfortune lost the favour of the rulers long before. The abolition of competitive examinations and the substitution of the system of nomination are indeed meant to discourage higher education upon which the Indians have learned to place their greatest reliance. If this higher education is now withdrawn, to them it would mean the greatest national calamity.

It is a hopeful sign of the times that many educated Indians are now directing their attention towards industrial and commercial pursuits. But improvement in this direction depends upon higher scientific education, which is almost impossible of attainment in these days when higher general education is in such a perilous condition. Very few students can afford to study in the Presidency College. The St. Xavier's College is also going to be closed to Indian students. The prospects are indeed gloomy.

BASUMATI,
May 7th, 1904.

19. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 7th May has the following:—

Bengali text-books in History and Geography.

A rumour is afloat in the Education Department that no text-books in History and Geography will be fixed this year, and that out of the approved and prescribed text-books in those subjects, school managers will be at liberty to select any they please. If this rumour be well-founded, then many authors will be greatly prejudiced by the arrangement. It is of course likely that the Director of Public Instruction will countenance an arrangement that will favour only European publishers and influential authors, many among whom are officers of the Education Department. Authors, who are unable to secure recommendations, will have no chance of having their books selected as text-books, although their books may be far superior to books of the abovementioned publishers and authors. We think it right to sound a note of warning in time, so that the Director may be able to consider the question carefully.

We do not think that all the members of the Text-Book Committee are competent to select the best text-books in Bengali. Pandits Rajendra Chandra Sastri and Kaliprasanna Vidyaratna enjoy the full confidence of the public, and if the Director follows their advice, there will be no cause of complaint in any quarter. Considering the importance which ought to be attached to History and Geography, it is desirable that only the best books should be fixed as text-books.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

MANBHUM,
May 3rd, 1904.

20. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 3rd May says that a severe water-

Impending water-scarcity in the Manbhum district.

scarcity is imminent in Manbhum, where there has been no rainfall as yet. Government should sink wells in different parts of this district to prevent deaths from want of drinking-water. The attention of the Deputy Commissioner is drawn to the matter.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 3rd, 1904.

21. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 3rd May publishes the following from correspondents:—

Water-scarcity in the Burdwan district.

(1) Severe water-scarcity prevails at Dhatri-gram, an important village in the Kalna subdivision of the Burdwan district. The sufferings of the villagers and their cattle for want of drinking-water are indescribable. A numerous signed petition was sent to the Chairman of the District Board, praying for re-excavation of the tank named Nutan Pukar, but no notice has yet been taken of it. It is to be

hoped that the District Magistrate will save the villagers from their present calamity.

(2) There is severe water-scarcity at Basudhu, a village within the Kanksa thana of the Burdwan district. There is only one tank for the whole village, but its water is polluted by women who wash their dirty clothes in it. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

22. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 4th May says that severe water-scarcity prevails in the Panurhia village under the Asansol thana in the Burdwan district. There is only one tank named Nutan Pukar in the village which supplies drinking-water to its inhabitants. But its water is polluted by washing of dirty clothes, etc., in it. The District Magistrate is requested to bring this tank and another adjoining it within the purview of Act V.

PALLIVASI,
May 4th, 1904.

23. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th May complains that Government is unmindful of the severe water-scarcity that now prevails in all parts of Bengal. It is to be regretted that the Rajas and zamindars take no interest in this matter. There was a time when to excavate tanks and sink wells were regarded as pious acts by the people of the country. But nowadays the zamindars waste huge sums of money in purchasing titles, in providing sumptuous feasts for Europeans, and in erecting statues of high-handed administrators. If even half the money which is thus squandered on useless purposes were spent in supplying water to the people, their sufferings would have been mitigated.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
May 4th, 1904.

24. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Mindapore] of the 4th May says that cholera has made its appearance in the Kisannagar village under the Daspur thana in the Midnapore district. Six men have died within two days. The Musalman inhabitants of the village, among whom the epidemic is chiefly raging, are very poor. The water they drink is indescribably bad. The local tanks have almost dried up, having only a mixture of mud and foul water at their bottom. The District Boards are to the mufassal what the Municipalities are to the towns. But the Chandpur, Radhakantapur, Sultanpur, and the neighbouring villages, 20 or 25 in all, have never received any benefit from their District Board. The suffering which the present water-scarcity is causing to the inhabitants of these villages is indescribable. The sight of it would melt a heart of stone. Cannot a generous member of the District Board take a trip to these villages and see the misery with his own eyes? One of the causes of the prevailing water-scarcity is the want of what is locally known as the "Boro" water. It has always been the custom in these parts to dam the Cossai river at Kalmijorh for the sake of the "Boro" rice crop, and to lead its water to the surrounding villages by means of channels, thus saving them to some extent from water-scarcity. But this year no dam has been thrown across the Cossai and consequently severe water-scarcity prevails in those villages. It is a wonder that this year the benevolent and popular Raja Narendra Lal Khan Bahadur of Narajol grudged a hundred or two hundred rupees to dam the river. The cholera-stricken Kisannagar village is his zamindari.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
May 4th, 1904.

25. The same paper speaks of the prevalence of severe water-scarcity in the Midnapore district. Even in the district town, which is the seat of high officials, people suffer from water-scarcity every summer.

MEDINI BANDHAV,

Water-scarcity in the Midnapore district.

26. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
May 7th, 1904.

The question of water-scarcity. It is not surely a difficult matter to have a well sunk in a place where there is scarcity of water. The expense is not to be incurred every year, and it is a necessary expense.

When famine and epidemics break out in the country, Government spends money to suppress them. But why should they not spend some money in order to prevent them? Good water-supply is a preventive of cholera, and if such a supply is secured, the cost of suppressing the disease will be reduced. How can we think that in a country in which Rs. 50,000 go to the Kurseong

Hospital, Rs. 15,000 to the Young Women's Christian Association, Rs. 40,000 to the Kurseong Orphanage, and Rs. 10,000 to the Calcutta Kindergarten Charitable School, Rs. 100 cannot be spent for the purpose of sinking a well in a village in which severe water-scarcity prevails. Those may be necessary expenses, but this is a more necessary expense. The people of the country are unable to undergo it. Our only hope lies in our rulers, and we beg and entreat them to save us.

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 9th, 1904.

27. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 9th May says that severe water-scarcity prevails in all parts of Bengal, especially in the Mymensingh, Noakhali, and Tippera districts. It is to be hoped Sir Andrew Fraser will take notice of the pitiable condition of the poor villagers.

HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1904.

28. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that great oppression is committed in the Bansberia Municipality in the assessment and realisation of taxes. The poor rate-payers are harassed and oppressed by means of warrants. Demand notices are never issued. The annual income of the Triveni burning-ghat is about Rs. 2,000, and yet it is not provided with a shed. The fee for death-registration has been increased from annas 5 to annas 13. The Chairman, who is a young man, is quite unfit for the high and responsible post he holds.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

MURSHIDABAD,
HITAISHI,
May 4th, 1904.

29. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 4th May complains that passengers are put to great inconvenience on Hoare, Miller & Co.'s boats plying between Khagra and Lalbagh. Both passengers and luggage are taken on the boats, and hence there is often great inconvenience, for want of sufficient room, to the passengers. The Company should provide a separate boat for luggage.

HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1904.

30. Writing in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May, Babu Gopal Chandra Pal, of Raipur, says that the *serangs* of the passenger steamers belonging to the India General and Rivers Steam Navigation Company and plying in East Bengal rivers commit great oppression on passengers. Raipur is a large station on the Cachar-Sundarban steamer line, but there is no proper landing arrangement at the place. When a steamer arrives at the station one staircase is lowered, but it reaches the surface of the water at some distance from the shore. In this state of things, the rule is that another staircase should be joined to the first one, so that it may reach the shore. But the *serangs* always refuse to do this. Consequently passengers are obliged to wade through knee-deep water in order to reach the staircase. This causes great inconvenience to passengers. Respectable female passengers in particular suffer most in consequence of this refusal on the part of the *serangs*. At 11-30 A.M., on the 11th April last, the *serang* of the *Lichu*, bound for Narayanganj, was compelled by a number of respectable passengers to lower a second staircase, but the mischievous fellow lowered such a small one that that also did not reach the shore. On another occasion a respectable passenger who had a lady with him, had to miss the *Mandal* steamer which was going from Narayanganj to Fenchuganj because its *serang* would not lower a second staircase. The *serang* even went so far as to insult the gentleman by asking him to carry the lady in his arms.

NAVA YUG,
May 7th, 1904.

31. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 7th May says that the Musalman *serangs* of the steamers of the Cachar-Sundarban Despatch Service line lord it over passengers and do not hesitate to commit most unjustifiable acts on board. On the 1st May last, Nur Ali, the *serang* of the *Mahratta*, killed a cow in the view of hundreds of Hindu passengers midway between the Karimganj and Naherghat stations in the Sylhet district. Great was the consternation of the Hindus, and they left the steamer at the Fenchuganj station. The Hindu traffic clerk and medical officer attached to the steamer almost abstained from food till the 5th May, when they reached Calcutta. If such things continue, it is doubtful whether any Hindu will travel on the line. Besides this, they may give rise to serious riots on board the steamers. Nur Ali should be immediately

dismissed, and a sharp eye should be kept on the *serangs* of the line, for there are many men of Nur Ali's stamp among them. The masters of the line, Messrs. Kilburn & Co., are known to be over-lenient to their subordinates. But occurrences like the above should not be allowed to pass unnoticed, for they are likely to lead to serious consequences.

32. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 8th May has the following :—

RANGALAY,
May 8th, 1904.

Eurasian and native employes
under the East Indian Railway
Company.

The East Indian Railway Company are just now taking a large number of Eurasians into their service. But when a reduction has to be made, the shearing knife is applied entirely to the

number of posts held by natives and to the pay they draw. No scheme of reduction ever affects a single Eurasian employé. The brunt of the work, however, has to be borne entirely by the native employes. They are a hard-worked, much-abused, and ill-paid class. They have to work, and work without leave or increment of pay. It is only Bengalis who can work under such ignominious conditions. But how long can this state of things last?

33. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May complains that very great inconvenience is caused to passengers on the East Indian Railway by the doors of the railway

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 11th, 1904.

A railway complaint.

carriages not being opened at road-side stations, and particularly at the Lilooh station. Even at the Howrah station, some minutes elapse before the carriage doors are opened. Sometimes passengers are unable to alight at the proper station and are carried to the next station, to their great trouble and loss. Some passengers endeavour to get out through the windows of the carriages. The attention of the Agent of the East Indian Railway is drawn to the matter.

(h)—General.

34. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd May says that although

CHARU MIHIR,
May 3rd, 1904.

The new telegraph rates.

the number of telegrams may have greatly increased since the new telegraph rates were introduced, yet men of moderate means have been greatly inconvenienced by their introduction. A message for which the charge was formerly As. 8, now requires As. 10 or even more. The undue shortening of the address often makes it very difficult to find out the addressee. An enquiry will surely prove the truth of these statements. It would be saving poor people from unnecessary loss if the address of telegrams for which the charge is As. 8 or upwards, were allowed free of charge, as was the practice before the new rules came into force. It is to be hoped that the authorities will take the matter into their consideration.

35. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 4th May disapproves of the proposal to

PALLIVASI,
May 4th, 1904.

The proposed transfer of the
head-quarters of the Raniganj
subdivision to Asansol.

transfer the head-quarters of the Raniganj subdivision of the Burdwan district from Raniganj to Asansol, because, although it may benefit a few European coal-miners and the East Indian Railway

Company, it would entail great loss and inconvenience on the public. Raniganj is a new town, but on account of its being a head-quarters, not a few large buildings have been constructed in it, and even now there are many under construction. The pleaders and mukhtears of the local Bar have taken up their permanent residence in the town. Talukdars have constructed their town-houses and Mahajans their store-houses in the place. And all this will prove of no use and the town will be ruined if the head-quarters are transferred to Asansol. Raniganj owes much of its prosperity to commerce. But the opening of the Bankura and Ondal-Sanithira railway lines dealt a severe blow to that prosperity, and if the proposed transfer is carried out it will completely disappear for good. The town of Raniganj is situated, as is to be desired, at the centre of the subdivision, and lies between the two large railway stations, Ondal and Asansol. The town contains the famous pottery works of Messrs. Burn and Company, the Bengal Paper Mills, and many other large concerns. The proposal in question was raised once before, but then it was dropped in consequence of the opposition of the local Subdivisional Officer. The report which he submitted at that time on the subject should now be taken into consideration. If the proposal is based on

the ground that Asansol is a large railway station, then it may be urged that every large railway station should be the head-quarters of a subdivision or district. It is rumoured that the present Subdivisional Officer of Raniganj favours the proposal because his *kuthi* is in a dilapidated condition. The Subdivisional Officer's *kuthi* was formerly situated near the local court-building and it was a fine house. This house was abandoned by the authorities and the present *kuthi* was taken up for the use of the Subdivisional Officer. Again, if the present *kuthi* is in a bad condition it can be repaired. A correspondent supports the above contentions in an article, and says that Raniganj is a more convenient place for litigants than Asansol.

SANJIVANI,
May 5th, 1904.

36. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th May says that

Mr. Fuller, Chief Commissioner of Assam, has set his mind upon excluding the people of Bengal, and the people of Sylhet in particular, from the public service in Assam Proper. By special order, he has directed the employment of local men in the public service, wherever competent men are available. This order is being carried out with such strictness that even in the Khasi Hills no effort is being spared to employ Khasias in the Government offices there, although very few competent Khasias are available. Lately the post of Superintendent in the Deputy Commissioner's office in that place fell vacant and no pains were spared to appoint a Khasia. But as no competent Khasia was available, the post was given to a Sylhet man, but a Khasia clerk was transferred from the subdivisional office to fill the post of second clerk in the Deputy Commissioner's office, as a reserve for any future vacancy in the post of the Superintendent. In the Brahmaputra Valley districts no non-Assamese people will, in future, be appointed to Government service, provided competent Assamese can be secured. The writer has also come to know that all Bengalis and Sylhet men who served in subordinate posts in the Police Department of Assam Proper have been quietly transferred to Sylhet, Cachar, Goalpara and other places near Bengal to make room for Assam people.

Mr. Fuller has also set aside the wholesome rule introduced by Sir Henry Cotton of appointing none but graduates to Sub-Deputyships. Under him academic qualification counts for nothing, favour being bestowed on only those who can bring recommendations from influential persons. One who can bring no recommendation has no chance of getting an appointment.

Mr. Fuller is also giving proof of his originality in his educational policy. There is, at present, very poor provision for high education in Assam. There exists only one second grade college in Assam, but that, too, will probably soon be abolished in pursuance of the Government's policy not to allow any second grade college to exist. The Assam Government will not surely find funds to raise the institution to a first grade college, and even if it does, it will not find the necessary Professors in Assam to carry out its work. The object of excluding all but Assamese from the Assam Government service is surely to prevent the people of Assam from carrying on free intercourse with the people of Bengal.

Mr. Fuller is also following an original policy in regard to primary education. While the new vernacular education scheme of Government is in full swing in Bengal, where already a large number of training schools for teachers has been established, in Assam the means for giving effect to the scheme are still under Mr. Fuller's deliberation. In devising these means he is working single-handed, as he does not want anybody, not even the Director of Public Instruction, to help him with advice. He has introduced a worthless method of training teachers. Those who want certificates of teachership are granted an allowance of Rs. 3, 4 or 5 a month and made to read with the boys in the ordinary schools and work with the teachers in the same institutions. It is not difficult to see what sort of men these teachers will turn out.

The Government of India's additional grant of one lakh of rupees for educational purposes still remains unexpended for want of a proper scheme.

37. The same paper says that the route by which Lord Curzon was

The departure of Lord Curzon.

driven from the Government House at Bombay to the Bombay harbour was lined with soldiers, but no inquisitive crowd gathered on the road to see him. On the shore *shamianas* were hung to receive officials and non-official gentlemen, but

SANJIVANI.

few of the latter came out to greet him. When His Lordship stepped into the launch which took him to the ship in which he was to make his voyage to England, a cheer was raised in his name, but it was not taken up by the people present. Oh! that we could send out some of our public men to England to enlighten the British public about the true nature of his Lordship.

38. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May thus reviews Lord Curzon's work in India:—

Lord Curzon's departure from India.

We are constrained to say for the sake of truth that no Indian has cause to be sorry at Lord Curzon's departure from India. His Lordship conducted the government of the country in utter disregard of the opinions of its inhabitants. He desired to satisfy everybody, but failed to satisfy anybody. In fact, he became unpopular with every section of the Indian community. The fact that only a few people went to bid him farewell at the Bombay harbour, the coldness they showed when cheers were called for him, and the apathetic manner in which the news of his departure was received from India sufficiently indicate to any intelligent man the extent of Lord Curzon's unpopularity with the natives. Endowed, though he is, with a superior power of speech and an extraordinary capacity for work, he is wanting in the tact and sound statesmanship which alone can establish peace and contentment in a country. As a matter of fact, his attempt to gain popularity by speechification and a few trite reforms has proved abortive.

The best of Lord Curzon's public measures in India is a small reduction of taxation, for which we have more than once expressed our gratitude to him. But by his own admission the total revenue of the Indian Empire increased by two crores during his administration. Certainly this could not be possible without an increase of taxation in some way or other, or an extraordinary rigour in the realisation of the revenue. Now with such a large increase of revenue and of large surpluses, the small reduction which he made in taxation was neither extraordinary nor entitled to any special credit. As to the settlement of the currency question, the credit of having accomplished it belongs to his predecessor rather than to him. There seemed to have been a charm about him in the first years of his administration, but later on that charm was broken and he was found out. If he earned the gratitude of the Indians by punishing the 9th Lancers, he jeopardised their future prospects by revolutionising education. If he publicly reproved and discouraged the Anglo-Indian community, he did injustice to the Hindus and Musalmans by secretly taking up the cause of that community in regard to official appointments. While he showed respect to the opinions of the Press, he did not fail to curb its independence by passing the Official Secrets Act. It is true that he sought to encourage native arts and industries, but the duty on Indian cotton manufactures still tarnishes the reputation of the British Indian administration. It is true he made a small reduction in taxation, but he did nothing to prevent an increase in the incidence of land revenue on the people. While he opposed the proposal to saddle India with a portion of the cost of the South African contingent, he brought about a large increase in the military expenditure of the country on the pretext of army reforms and by sanctioning the use of improved fire-arms, etc., in the Indian army. Will his Lordship tell us whether to praise or blame him for all this? We fail to make out what good he did us. On the contrary, we are smarting under the evils which he brought upon us. His characteristic self-conceit made him disliked by the Indians. A disregard for the opinions of others, an over-weening self-conceit and self-confidence, a constant parading of his high official position and a want of high and liberal principles tainted every one of his actions in India. He indulged in high professions, but his actions did not come up to even a hundredth part of what he professed. It was with a feeling of great pride that he applauded his own administration as compared with that of his predecessor, Lord Elgin. We do not deny that Lord Elgin was not a great speaker or a hard worker, but he had to cope with frontier difficulties, plague, famine, etc. Lord Curzon had neither of these to distract his attention, but what real and useful work did he do? He has revolutionised education, left the

HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1904.

question of the separation of judicial and executive functions untouched, left the results of the Police Commission unpublished, and set up a conflagration on the Tibetan frontier. It would have been much better for India if he had remained inactive like Lord Elgin instead of undertaking "Commissions," the Delhi Darbar, the Victoria Memorial, the Gulf tour, the Tibet Expedition, etc. May he never return to this country as its Viceroy or become the Secretary of State for India!

HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1904.

39. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May says that the Commissioner of the Sunderbans is trying all means to deprive the talukdars under him of their permanent leases of lands. This is unjust and oppressive, and the attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

BASUMATI,
May 7th, 1904.

40. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 7th May says that on the 14th April last, for some unknown cause, Mr. Macfarlane, Librarian of the Imperial Library, charged Babu Sudhansusekhar Kali, son of the well-known homœopathic physician of Calcutta, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Kali, with criminal trespass for the alleged offence of having torn out a few pages of a copy of a University Calendar belonging to the Library. Although Sudhansu Babu was a regular reader in the Imperial Library and held a ticket entitling him to enter into the Library premises, yet he was placed in police custody, brought before the Deputy Commissioner of Police, and was afterwards enlarged on bail. The Chief Presidency Magistrate, before whom the trial took place, dismissed the case after examining Mr. Macfarlane, and Babu Charu Krista Ghose, one of the officers of the Library. In acquitting the accused the Magistrate remarked as follows:—

"I am not at all satisfied with the evidence of Charu Krista Ghose in this case. His behaviour is not above suspicion, and his statements in cross-examination were not calculated to inspire confidence in him. Accused acquitted under section 245, Criminal Procedure Code."

It appears that in this matter Charu Babu was greatly to blame. Why was he then allowed to go unpunished?

The question now is, is there no remedy for all the trouble, insult, and loss to which a gentleman was for nothing subjected? The behaviour of Mr. Macfarlane was indeed strange. Will Government call for the records of the case? If innocent native gentlemen are thus to be insulted in the Imperial Library, no one will henceforth venture to go there.

BANGAVASI,
May 7th, 1904.

41. In 1902, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May, 7,112,336 people died in British India. This is a horribly large figure. When cholera and malaria break out in villages they are decimated. The poor people do not get wholesome water for drinking and bathing, and they go without medicines when they are ill. Medicines should be distributed free of charge within every police-station and outpost, if not in every village. How can such people as are unable to make the two ends meet pay for medicines? Quinine is sold at every post-office at a pice per packet. But there are people who cannot even pay a pice for medicine. Medicines should be distributed free of charge if the death-rate is to be reduced.

SUHRID,
May 7th, 1904.

42. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 7th May says that the work of the survey and settlement of the Backergunge district is attended with great oppression, and that Mr. Beatson Bell, the District Magistrate, is chiefly responsible for it. Much of the oppression can be prevented by the employment of such amins as have passed the Survey Examination, but that is not done and ignorant men taken from the lowest classes are employed in the work. It is rumoured that the survey and settlement work will be extended all over Bengal and Assam. If so, these provinces are doomed.

RANGALAY,
May 8th, 1904.

43. Referring to the Government's endeavour to ameliorate the condition of the Indian raiyats by the passing of the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, the *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes as follows:—

The first question to be considered in ascertaining the condition of the Indian raiyat is—is he a poor or an improvident man? We think that he is both

poor and improvident. But both his poverty and improvidence are, to our mind, due in a great measure to British rule. The English rulers are very strict in the realisation of their taxes. They realise their taxes on strictly commercial principles, and in cash. The old system of paying one-sixth of the produce as the Sovereign's due is no longer in vogue, and what the Indian raiyat has now to pay amounts, on an average, very nearly to five-eighths of the produce of his field. The taxes being payable in cash, the raiyat has to procure money at any cost, and he is obliged to take advances or get loans. The interest on loans or advances takes away a good part of his produce.

The object of Government in passing the Co-operative Credit Societies Act is to take the business of money-lenders into its own hands. The assumption of the money-lending business by Government will certainly prove lucrative to itself, but it is doubtful whether it will be beneficial to the raiyat. So far as we can see, the measure will not lighten, in the smallest degree, the heavy burden of miseries under which the Indian raiyat suffers. So long as agriculture remains the sole occupation of the Indian, and the produce of the field the sole means wherewith he is to meet the multifarious demands on his purse—the land revenue, the road-cess, the chaukidari cess, illegal gratification to the police, the interest on loans, the wherewithal to keep body and soul together, and money for marrying his sons and daughters—it is idle to expect that his miseries will ever be removed. It is everybody's object to enrich himself at the expense of the raiyat. Where there is no permanent settlement of the land revenue, every new settlement is the signal for enhancing the revenue. This process of enhancement has been carried so far that a taluk which was fifty years ago settled at a rental of two hundred rupees is now made to fetch rupees seven hundred, although in the meantime the population of the country has increased, the cost of living has quadrupled, and the productive power of the soil has diminished. And the taluk has to find profit not only for the Government, but also for the *thikadar*, for the money-lender, for the police, and for the English merchant who advances money. What the raiyat has left to himself after meeting all these demands is hardly more than nothing.

In Bengal we have the permanent settlement. But Government is evading it on various pretexts. The zamindars, for instance, have been reduced almost to the position of *ijardars*, and taxes have been slowly multiplied. The result is that a single unfavourable season leaves the Bengali raiyat without the means of livelihood.

It is useless to try to save a man from one evil when he is surrounded by evils on all sides. The truth is that Government has either failed to go to the root of the matter or has purposely avoided doing so. Silence is best for us under such circumstances. To keep the milch cow alive is certainly the milk man's lookout.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May writes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 3rd, 1904.

Has our condition improved or deteriorated during the last fifty years? We are a subject people and our only hope of improvement lies in the favour of our rulers. Our condition must deteriorate in proportion as we are deprived of their favour. Whether through our own fault or not we have lost or are fast losing the favour of our rulers. Why else should there be an Arms Act or a Sedition Act in this country? Why else should we fail to receive from the officials the same sympathy nowadays that we did formerly. Formerly the highest officials in a district would show their subordinates the greatest kindness and render them the most efficient help in all trials and troubles. But how many Judges and Magistrates are in the habit of doing this now? Why are those who loved us before adverse to us now? Why do those who were once as *má-báp* to us hate us now? Who is to blame for this? There is no doubt that we have ourselves to thank for this.

From our study of English history and literature we have come to imbibe the notion that Englishmen as well as ourselves are subjects of the same Sovereign and therefore entitled to the same rights, that we are equal to them in all respects and no way inferior to them. But from the day we have begun to sing to this tune we have begun to lose the sympathy and affection of

Englishmen. That is why we say we have ourselves to thank for our misfortune.

The number of speakers and newspapers has increased in our country and associations are being established in it in large numbers. Government keeps a sharp eye on these things. Government keeps itself well informed as to the meetings that are held and the speeches that are made anywhere in the country as also about any favourable or adverse remarks that are made about its actions in any newspaper. When we take up the pen we forget everything. We are only anxious to hit hard, forgetting who it is who would be ultimately hurt by such hard hitting. Again, the newspaper that can hit the hardest has the largest circulation. But Government takes care to keep itself informed of every opinion that is expressed anywhere about its actions. In the same way, speakers, too, when they stand up on the platform, forget themselves and make unpalatable remarks that are received by the audience with loud clapping of hands. Of this, too, Government takes care to keep itself informed. The newspapers in England sometimes criticise severely the actions of Government, and the Press is greatly feared and respected there by Government. But that is no reason why the English officials should put up with sharp criticism in the native Press. Suppose you have a zamindari. If a tenant of yours were to speak evil of you, would you not pull him by the ear if you had the power? It is no wonder, then, that Englishmen should be extremely annoyed and irritated at our unpalatable remarks. We read a few pages of English and then assume English ways. We dress and demean ourselves as Englishmen and display the English spirit. Everybody can see the result that is produced by this. If the reader wishes to pass comfortably his mortal days, he should try to thoroughly realise his position. He will see that our position is most abject and that our only hope lies in the favour of our rulers. We should bear in mind that the English are our rulers and that we are their subjects. Forget all such notions as that you as well the English are subject of the same Sovereign, Emperor Edward VII, and you will be happy. Bear in mind that you are beggars and, as such, can have no dignity or self-respect. You ought to do everything to please the officials. If you find them doing anything wrong, you ought to point out their mistake in sweet words and with due respect. This may have effect. But where interests are concerned and a measure has been adopted after due deliberation and not through oversight, protests will do no good. It is better to say nothing in such cases instead of making a clamour. We should act with due regard to our power, position, and fitness.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
May 4th, 1904.

45. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th May says that Mr. Robson, Principal of the Lahore College, having ordered the students of his College to wear a particular kind of blazer, they respectfully represented that they had taken a vow not to wear foreign-made articles. Upon this, Mr. Robson characterized such action as disloyal to Government and indicative of ignorance and shortsightedness. Mr. Robson ought to know that the Indians can never be disloyal to their Sovereign. Why is he so mindful of external embellishments? The results of the Lahore Government College at the University examinations are far from satisfactory. He ought certainly to pay more attention to the real instruction of his students. His conduct indeed shews that he is fickle-minded and lacks good sense. Such treatment in Government colleges will in time drive away Hindu and Muhammadan students from them and will thus serve to reduce the number of the "discontented B.A's." The object of Lord Curzon's Universities Act will by this means be fulfilled.

46. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th May writes :—

The prospects of the Indians under the British Government.

In the course of a conversation the late Babu Bhudeb Mukerji was once told by Sir Ashley Eden, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, that though he was the son of a poor Brahmin, it was by virtue of the English education he had received and through the favour of the British Government that he occupied the highest position in the Education Department of the province, and that the Bengalis ought to be grateful to Government for this. In reply, Bhudeb Babu said that if he had been born at the time when the Moghuls or the Mahrattas were the rulers of the country, he might have risen to be the

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 6th, 1904.

Prime Minister, but that as he had the misfortune to be born during British rule, he could not expect to acquire such a distinction. Sir Ashley Eden had to admit that though Government had appointed the Indians to posts of no great trust and responsibility, it thought that it had shewn the greatest magnanimity to them. Their highest ambition now is to be a Judge of the High Court or a Divisional Commissioner. But as regards the latter post, it is not for those who have not passed the Civil Service Examination in England. As to the highest post in the Education Department, it is doubtful whether any native educationist will ever occupy it in future. During Muhammadan rule the Indians used to be appointed as Viceroys, Provincial Governors, Generals, Ministers of the Crown, War Ministers, and Finance Ministers. If after 150 years of British rule, the Indians are considered incapable of holding any appointments in Government service, higher than those held by them at the present time, it must be said that they have deteriorated, and that the deterioration is due to the selfish policy of the British Government.

Some Englishmen question the abilities of the Indians and declare that they must not aspire after higher appointments before they deserve them. But have our rulers ever given us the opportunity to prove our abilities? Has Government any faith in our countrymen? In the Native States the Indians are able to rise to and hold the office of Prime Minister; but in British India it is only a few persons that are occasionally seen to rise to posts higher than those of Deputy Magistrates. What is the reason of this? Is this the result of suspicion, Western education, and civilized government?

Swami Sarvareti, who is an Indian, studied in France for some years and acquired great distinction there. As a reward for his superior attainments he has been appointed as the Governor of Indo China. Such recognition of merit in an Indian is rarely met with in British India. Take the case of Babu Atul Chandra Chatterji, who a few years ago occupied the foremost place in the Indian Civil Service Examination. He was appointed only as an Assistant Magistrate in India, while Babu Nandalal Bhar won a gold medal from the French Government by worthily filling the posts of Chancellor and Vice-Consul in the French Consul's Office. Such distinctions are scarcely obtainable by the Indians under the British Government. That there is very little recognition of merit in the British Indian Empire is an undeniable fact.

47. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 6th May writes:—

The marriage of the daughter of Mr. K. N. Ray, District Judge of Rangpur.

The marriage of the daughter of Mr. K. N. Ray, our District Judge, was celebrated on last Sunday. Large quantities of fish were supplied on the occasion from the estates of Messrs. D. M.

Ray and A. C. Ray, which are under the Administrator-General. The surplus fish were sold by Mr. Ray for Rs. 12. The Court peons supplied plantain leaves and did many other jobs. The Nazir attended to many things. Many of the bridegroom's friends were accommodated in the Judge's Court buildings.

48. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May has the following:—

India under British rule.

Lord Curzon on many occasions has said that India under British rule is much happier than it was under either Hindu or Musalman rule. Lord Curzon is right to some extent. Comforts of life which the Indians had never dreamed of even under the rule of the Great Akbar are now, under British rule, within the reach of every Indian subject. The Hindus, in one respect, were better off under Musalman rule than they are under British rule; that is, under Musalman rulers, the Hindus had not lost their national spirit, although they were in various ways ill-treated by the ruling class. But what the Musalmans could not do in seven hundred years, the British have done in half a century. Degeneration of the Hindus dates from the Indian Mutiny of 1857. And so low have they fallen during this short period that foreigners call them a nation of sheep.

But British rule has also been a boon to the Indians, inasmuch as it has taught them Western arts and sciences.

49. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th May has the following:—

Lord Curzon and Lord Lytton.

Lord Curzon, in many respects, resembles Lord Lytton. The Indians bade farewell to Lord

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
May 6th, 1904.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 9th, 1904.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 7th, 1904.

Curzon with the same pleasure with which they bade farewell to Lord Lytton. And now that Lord Curzon is gone, they are feeling a sort of rest and repose from the disquiet into which his administration had thrown them. Lord Curzon did, indeed, put the Indians in mind of the sad time of Lord Lytton. When Lord Curzon came to India the people took him for a ruler who would redress their grievances. The Hindus gave him the place of Vikramaditya, and the Musalmans placed him even higher than Harun and Hatim. But to-day they think that his presence in India was a source of mischief, and they shiver when they think of his return. Lord Curzon came to India when famine was raging all over the land, and the same was the case when Lord Lytton came. The latter held the Delhi Darbar in spite of a devastating famine and made a display of Mughal grandeur and magnificence in his elephant procession, while his successor, not satisfied with his Delhi Darbar and his elephant procession, made arrangements to impress on the Indian Chiefs the fact that they were neither independent rulers nor the real owners of their States, but merely the dependents of the British Government and the British people.

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 11th, 1904.

50. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May has the following:—

Indian soldiers in the British Army.

The British soldier in India has deteriorated. The moment he sets his foot on Indian soil, he is transformed into a Nabob. A boy officer comes from England and is placed in command over veteran Rajputs, Sikhs, and Gurkhas, who have earned great distinction by their military prowess. Such examples of partiality have utterly demoralized the British Army. Thus wrote Sir Henry Lawrence, the hero of Lucknow:—

“If Asiatics and Africans can obtain honourable positions in the armies of Russia and France, surely Indians after a tried service of a century under England's banner, are entitled to the same boon, nay justice.”

Rome, Greece, Carthage, Babylon, Macedonia have fallen. France and Persia are no longer what they once were. Who knows that the power of England will endure for ever? We wish to see the British Empire founded upon justice and equality. Merit should be rewarded, irrespective of nationality, creed or colour. British power cannot stand upon mere brute force; it must have a downfall sooner or later. We point out faults in order that reforms may follow.

URIYA PAPERS.

GARJATBASINI,
April 30th, 1904.

51. As gatherings of men and women are held in Talcher without the knowledge of the Raja of that State, the *Garjat-basini* [Talcher] of the 30th April advises the sarbarakars of that State to give early intimation of such gatherings to the Raja, so as to enable him to make necessary police arrangements beforehand.

GARJATBASINI,

52. The same paper highly praises the liberality of the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, who remitted a debt of Rs. 1,500 which one Ramkrishna Saha owed him and which he was unable to liquidate.

The Maharaja of Mayurbhanj's liberality.

GARJATBASINI,

53. The same paper praises the Raja of Talcher for prohibiting, on sanitary grounds, the commission of nuisances near the bathing ghat of the Brahmani river on which the Talcher town stands and from which its residents draw their principal supply of water.

A sanitary measure at Talcher.

GARJATBASINI,

54. The same paper states that the people of Hindole have been seized with great panic on account of a royal tiger running amuck. The man-eater killed a *shikari* and two other men and is still at large. The writer hopes that the Raja of Hindole will take early steps to bag the ferocious beast and thereby free his State from a fearful pest.

A man-eater at Hindole.

GARJATBASINI,

55. The same paper states that there has been a sufficient mango crop in Hindole.

The mango crop.

GARJATBASINI,

Fever at Hindole.

56. According to the same paper many are dying of fever in Hindole.

57. While praising the skill and ability of the Assistant Surgeon in Dhenkanal as shown in certain delicate surgical operations, the same paper avails itself of the occasion to suggest that a Hospital Assistant should be added to the existing medical establishment in that State.
 Wanted a Hospital Assistant at Dhenkanal. GARJATBASINI, April 30th, 1904.
58. The same paper apprehends a great scarcity of rice, moong, and sesamum, etc., in Dhenkanal owing to a brisk export of those articles of food from that State.
 The ensuing crops at Dhenkanal. GARJATBASINI,
59. The same paper states that about 60 houses in village Sadasinpur in Dhenkanal were reduced to ashes by fire. There are outbreaks of fire in other places also.
 Fire in Dhenkanal. GARJATBASINI,
60. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 28th April regrets to observe that the number of dacoities in the Balasore district is increasing. It gives a specific instance of the same.
 Dacoity in the Balasore district. SAMVAD VAHIKA, April 28th, 1904.
61. The same paper says that there is no rain and that the temperature is rising. Want of drinking-water is felt both in the Balasore town and the mufassal.
 The weather. SAMVAD VAHIKA.
62. Referring to the meeting of the Rajput Chiefs in the premises of the Mayo College at Ajmere, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 30th April observes that such meetings are always desirable, as they are calculated to foster a friendly feeling among the potentates of that part of India.
 The meeting of Rajput Chiefs at Ajmere. UTKALDIPIKA, April 30th, 1904.
63. The same paper draws the attention of the Gurjat authorities to the want of drinking-water that is felt in different Tributary States in Orissa, and observes that sinking of wells, excavation and repair of tanks, and other similar measures should engage their immediate attention.
 Water-scarcity in the Feudatory States in Orissa. UTKALDIPIKA.
64. The same paper is glad to learn that the consumption of kerosene oil, prepared in Assam and Burma, is increasing day after day, and it is hoped that by the application of improved apparatus the quality of the oil may be made to correspond to that of the oil imported from Russia and America.
 The Indian kerosene oil. UTKALDIPIKA.
65. The same paper is sorry that various plans and devices are resorted to as excuses for doing what is intrinsically unjust and unfair. It is said that only European and Eurasian candidates were invited to attend the Telegraph Training Class at Lucknow, because they had no objection to serve in any part of India, while the home-sick Indian always likes to work in his native district. Whatever may have been the defects of the old race of Indians the Indian of the day is as good a cosmopolitan as any European.
 The Telegraph Training Class at Lucknow. UTKALDIPIKA.
66. The same paper states that the few imported and isolated cases of plague in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district, that were noticed in the last report, have created a general apprehension in the public mind.
 Plague in the Jajpur subdivision. UTKALDIPIKA.
67. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that the Manager of the Puri temple has managed the *Chandan Jatra* in connection with that temple in an able manner and that he has evolved order out of confusion, a blessing of which the pilgrims and devotees were deprived for the past twenty-five years.
 The *Chandan Jatra* festival at Puri. UTKALDIPIKA.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
 The 14th May, 1904.

